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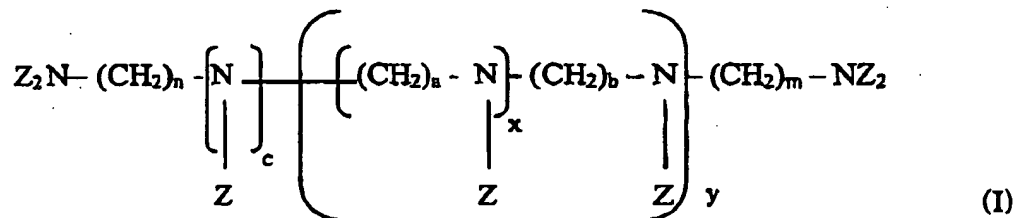
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CLAIMS

1. Use of an organophosphonate having the general formula (I):



- 5 wherein

$\text{Z} = -\text{CHR}_1\text{PO}_3\text{R}_2$

$\text{R} = \text{H}, \text{CH}_3, \text{C}_2\text{H}_5 \text{ or } \text{M}$

$\text{R}' = \text{H}, \text{CH}_3, \text{CR}_3, \text{C}_6\text{H}_5, \text{ or } \text{SO}_3\text{H}_2$

$\text{M} = \text{alkali metal or ammonium ion}$

- 10 $n = 0 \text{ to } 10$

$m = 0 \text{ to } 10$

$a = 0 \text{ to } 10$

$b = 0 \text{ to } 10$

$c = 0 \text{ or } 1$

- 15 $x = 0 \text{ to } 10$

$y = 0 \text{ to } 10$

to inhibit white rust corrosion in water using systems.

2. Use as claimed in Claim 1, in which R and R' each = H , $n = 6$, m
 20 = 6, $c = 1$, $y = 0$ whereby the compound is
 bis(hexamethylene)triamine-pentakis (methylene phosphonic acid), as in
 formula (II):

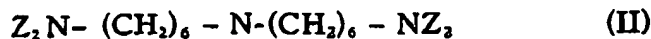
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3. Use of a random copolymer of vinylidene diphosphonic acid and vinyl sulphonic acid in a molar ratio of between 1:1 and 1:500 to inhibit white corrosion in water using systems.
- 5
4. A compound as claimed in Claim 3, in which the molar ratio is 1:100 molar.
5. Use as claimed in Claim 3 or Claim 4, in which the molar ratio is 1:20 molar.
- 10
6. Use of a composition comprising a phosphonated oligomer of formula (I) as defined in Claim 1 or a random copolymer of vinylidene diphosphonic acid and vinyl sulphonic acid in a molar ratio of between 1:1 and 1:500, together with additives conventionally used in the water treatment industry to inhibit white rust corrosion in water using systems.
- 15
7. Use as claimed in Claim 6 in which the additives are selected from the group consisting of phosphonocarboxylic acids or salts and dispersants.
- 20
8. Use as claimed in Claim 7 in which the dispersant is a polyacrylate.
- 25
9. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 6 to 8 in which the composition comprises a biocide.

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10. Use as claimed in any one of Claims 6 to 9 in which the phosphonocarboxylic acid or salt is a phosphonated oligomer of maleic acid, of general formula (III):



wherein M is a cation such that the oligomer is soluble in water, and n is greater than 1.

10 11. Use as claimed in any one of Claims 6 to 9, in which the polyacrylate compound is a low molecular weight polymer having a molecular weight between 2000 to 5000.

15 12. A method for inhibiting corrosion in, or in connection with, a water-using system, said method consisting of the application or addition to said system of an effective amount of a phosphonated oligomer of formula (I) as defined in Claim 1 or a random copolymer of vinylidene diphosphonic acid and vinyl sulphonic acid in a molar ratio of between 1:1 and 1:500 or of a composition comprising a phosphonated oligomer of
20 formula (I) as defined in Claim 1 or a random copolymer of vinylidene diphosphonic acid and vinyl sulphonic acid in a molar ratio of between 1:1 and 1:500, together with additives conventionally used in the water treatment industry to inhibit white rust corrosion in water using systems..

25 13. A method as claimed in Claim 12 in which the method consists of the application to a metal prior to contact with water of an effective amount of the phosphonated oligomer or the random copolymer of vinylidene diphosphonic acid and vinyl sulphonic acid or of the composition.

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14. A method as claimed in Claim 12 or 13, in which the oligomer or copolymer is used in an effective amount of up to 1000 ppm.

5 15. A method as claimed in Claims 12 to Claim 14, in which the oligomer or copolymer is used in an effective amount of up to 250 ppm.

16. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 15 in which the oligomer or copolymer is used in an effective amount of up to 100 ppm.

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